

# NEWSLETTER

## AIDS NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY

MARCH/APRIL 1989

VOLUME 4 NO. 2

### Leadership Award

This year, the Community Leadership Award was presented to Dr. Barbara Romanowski. The award was created in 1988 to recognize individuals whose efforts in the area of AIDS have shown significant community leadership. The award was presented by Dr. Larry Jewell, Chairperson of the Board of Directors.

Doctor Romanowski is the Director of Alberta's Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Unit. She is a specialist in infectious diseases since 1978. She also spends a great deal of time counselling, teaching and seeing patients.

Dr. Larry Jewell says, "She was right in the vanguard. We really wish to acknowledge her leadership in the area of AIDS prevention and her recognition of the need to get systems in place to deal with people who are infected and ill."

But Dr. Romanowski is more than just a researcher or a director, she is a person who can see the devastating human side to the disease and addresses that as well. "Some of the problems around AIDS have changed. There needs to be more emphasis on patient care and HIV infections in (I.V.) drug users. And the stigmatism and discrimination still surrounding AIDS must be addressed."

Another aspect of the disease that she is concerned with is educating the public. "...Despite an active education program, individuals continue to place themselves at risk," she says. "...We've been unsuccessful... in getting people to make an informed decision."

We wish her luck and look forward to continuing to work with her in the future. Thank you for a job well, and enthusiastically done.



### Late Nite with ANE

On Thursdays the office will be open late till 9 p.m. Staff in the Support Services, Volunteer and Education programs will be available for one on one meetings, support and counseling. The library and resource centre will be accessible to volunteers, members and individuals looking for information or materials.

Call 424-4767 for appointment or drop by to say Hello.

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# Canada Youth & Aids Study (part II)

## IMPLICATIONS FOR AIDS EDUCATION:

The study makes recommendations under 5 broad categories.

## THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA:

The federal government should provide "clear frank and complete" information about AIDS in Canada, recognizing that youth are a target group that needs to be reached. This group is sexually active and must be provided with "ongoing, up-to-date, comprehensive documentation of sources of information about prevention and treatment. They should make this information available to all youth (in and out of school) and the general public. The writers suggest that this could be achieved through "systematic media releases and frank, accurate information pamphlets". This should be a responsibility of the Federal Centre for AIDS. As well, the FCA should coordinate the efforts of the medical community who should play a role in interpreting for the public, the variety of information that is made public about AIDS. The authors recommend as well that the FCA provide regular reports to the public to "counter the media's tendency to sensationalize AIDS - related issues, and help those developing educational programs within the provinces and territories. Finally the report recommends that the federal government review program and services that are already in existence for this target group, help initiate these in various Canadian communities, and evaluate their effectiveness.

## PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM:

The provinces and territories must provide accurate, explicit information available to Canadian youth "prior" to and throughout their adolescent years."

They suggest that the information needs to be explicit. Sanitizing the information only leads to confusion and inaction by youth. The authors recommend the school

setting as the most appropriate vehicle, and where the community deems the material to be controversial, that parents and community leaders be involved from the beginning.

Finally the report states that "...AIDS education for Canadian students has tended to be euphemistic and vague, lacking clarity, frankness, and completeness both desired and needed by young people". Educational programs need to carefully balance the biomedical and immunological aspects of HIV and preaching abstinence with specific and explicit information about potentially harmful behaviours and effective protection.

## PARENTS AND PEERS:

Many of the youth indicated that their preferred sources of information on sex-related issues be their parents. Parents therefore need to be kept up to date with accurate and continuing education about AIDS and other STDs. This would best be achieved through direct information from federal government programs and from the schools.

The response of most Canadian Youth suggest that they become sexually active due to "romance", and that they value the spontaneity of their sexual experiences. The report recommends that we teach youth to "anticipate and plan their sexual encounters .... (that is teach) the concerns of planned, responsible sexual behaviours". The goal should be to give youth the skills to develop relationships that avoid exposure to HIV and STDs because the participants take on the responsibility of avoiding risks for themselves and their sexual partners.

## COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICE:

Free health services on campus provide an ideal educational opportunity for informing youth about AIDS, HIV and other STDs.

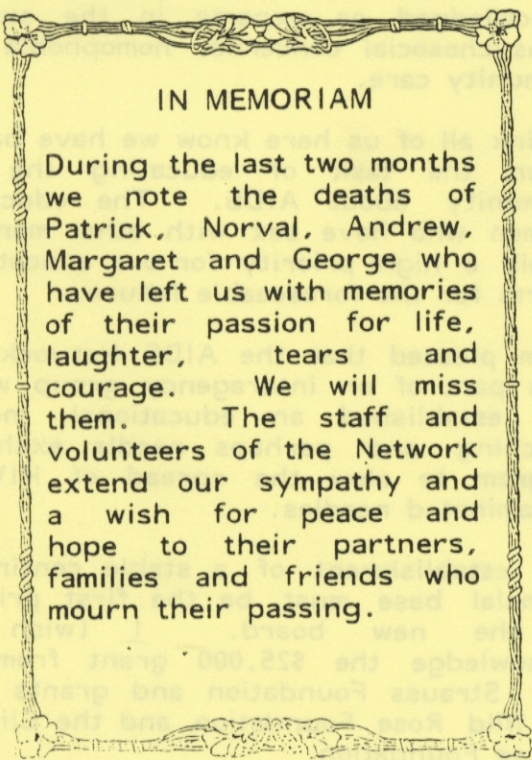


The report recommends that "...in order to aid them in designing educational campaigns, campus health services across the country should be made aware of our findings with regard to the sexual behaviours of college and university students".

#### RESEARCH:

The study recommends that federal authorities must take an active role in prioritizing research. They should not only be funding research where the problem has been defined by the researchers, but should be identifying the specific research needs and inviting qualified researchers to carry out the studies. "Survey research is needed periodically to assess what youth know, believe and do about HIV infection and AIDS. Behavioural research is needed to understand why they take risks. And, evaluation research is needed to assess the effectiveness of AIDS education programs, intervention and media campaigns.

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#### IN MEMORIAM

During the last two months we note the deaths of Patrick, Norval, Andrew, Margaret and George who have left us with memories of their passion for life, laughter, tears and courage. We will miss them. The staff and volunteers of the Network extend our sympathy and a wish for peace and hope to their partners, families and friends who mourn their passing.

## 'Peer'less Educators

In December of 1988 the University of Alberta Health Services Department began a program to have students educate other students about AIDS. The program decided to use students because it is believed that people will be more responsive to hearing about the disease from people their own age. They may also be more inclined to modify their behavior when they realize that it is of concern to their age group.

Coordinated by Sherril Berg of Health Services the program, now in its pilot year, has several objectives in mind. These include: increasing student knowledge and dispelling myths about AIDS; increasing staff awareness and knowledge; providing a supportive environment; increasing personal responsibility for health and promoting healthy lifestyles; and reducing morbidity and mortality in the student population.

The Peer Educator Program has the advantage to the University of expanding its programs and potential beyond existing staff resources and ensuring student input. The Peer Educators are expected to become role models for others and to provide peer support. The program has the added advantage of providing participating students with an opportunity to gain valuable experience in a leadership role.

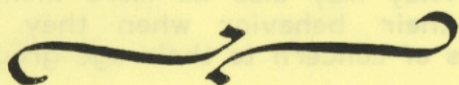
Training of the Peer Counsellors was completed over three days of intensive workshops with input from the medical profession and members of the AIDS Network. Topics covered included sessions on Death and Dying, the history of AIDS, treatment, communication and how to conduct a successful workshop or seminar.

Since January the Peer Counsellors have been involved in a number of presentations on campus. All of their presentations are proactive. Counsellors set up the engagements and then carry through on them. The counsellors were highly visible on campus during AIDS Awareness Week manning booths in three high traffic areas on campus; HUB, SUB and CAB.



While not directly affiliated with the Network, the Peer Counsellors are performing a valuable service that the Network doesn't have manpower or funding to accomplish. It is hoped that the concept will spread to other campuses throughout the city and from there to the province.

For more information on the Peer Counsellors Program contact Sherrill Berg at University Health Services, 492-2612.



## Aids Awareness Week

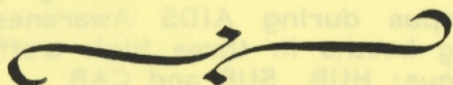
This year AIDS Awareness Week was kicked off with a press conference in the Network office. Mayor Cavanagh attended the kick-off with members from all the major media in the city.

Joining the Mayor for the conference was Robert Chernuka, one of the peer counsellors from the University. Robert answered questions about the peer counselling program that has been running since January.

AIDS Awareness Week was a success. We arranged for the Journal to do a major article on Monday, March 13 which started the week rolling. Through the week, most of the local radio stations provided airtime for interviews or comment about the week and about AIDS.

We would like to mention the contribution of CKNG FM who did a full week of special features on AIDS with interviews by Wayne Hellard, David Fitzgerald and Dr. Larry Jewell.

The week ended with a special article on Dr. Barbara Romanowski in the Edmonton Sun. Dr. Romanowski was this year's recipient of the Network's Leadership Award, presented to her at the Annual General Meeting.



## Speaking from the Chair

This is excerpted from Dr. Jewell's address at the Annual General Meeting. For a full draft of the address get a copy of the Annual Report at the Network's office.

Most of our workers are unpaid volunteers serving in capacities as diverse as members of the Board of Directors, educators, "buddies" and general gofers.

Volunteerism is the heart - and it is a large heart - of our society and, as I complete my term as Board Chairperson, I want to acknowledge how deeply I respect you all and to say how much I have been affirmed by your commitment.....

Seventy-one new volunteers were trained this year; volunteers provided about 9,000 hours of service.

Our educational activities continue to be numerous, highly expert and well received. We have been asked to address approximately 40 health related organizations over the year and are acknowledged as experts in the subject of psychosocial concerns, homophobia and community care.

I think all of us here know we have barely begun the task of educating the gay community about AIDS. The education of men who have sex with other men will remain a high priority for our educational efforts for the foreseeable future.

I am pleased that the AIDS Network has been part of an interagency group which has established an educational, needle bleaching and perhaps needle exchange program to slow the spread of HIV by contaminated needles.

The establishment of a stable continuing financial base must be the first priority of the new board. I (wish to) acknowledge the \$25,000 grant from the Levi Strauss Foundation and grants from the Wild Rose Foundation and the Clifford E. Lee Foundation.



There are two major needs to be addressed. Government funds must be secured over a longer term than is presently clear to us and dollar amounts must be increased. At the same time we must broaden our base to include the private sector and individual generosity. This effort will not be successful without the wholehearted participation of the volunteer body.

Public, political and media attention to AIDS too often seems to me to be like a roving searchlight - intense glare and illumination for a few moments followed by darkness as it passes on to the next item on the horizon. We can change the situation if each of us thinks of himself or herself as carrying his own candle, smaller perhaps but steadier and in the aggregate more powerful.

Victory I believe is ours if we are prepared to continue to work for it - victory both over the virus and over those social forces which seek to see diversity as decay, illness as sin, and epidemic death as divinely ordered.



## News from the Board

On Wednesday, March 15 the AIDS Network of Edmonton Society held its Annual General Meeting. The meeting marked the end of the term for some members of the Board and the selection of the new Board members.

The Guest Speaker at the Annual General Meeting was the Honorable Nancy Betkowski. Mrs. Betkowski addressed the areas of care, isolation, legislation and the role of community groups in the fight against AIDS. She then left time for questions from 90 plus guests and members at the meeting.

Resigning from the Board were Marg Pullishy, Michael Schreiner, Dr. Ron Goede, and Larry Powlesland. We thank them for their work in the past and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

Two people were re-elected to the Board, Andy Hopkyns and Kate Thompson. New to the Board this year are: Dawne Brown, Wendy Koenig, Nick De Silva, Donald Michalkow, Mary Rafter, Susan Smythe and Matt Kuefler. This provides us with a Board of fifteen members that is now balanced for expertise and gender.

The new Board met for its first time on Tuesday, March 21. Elections were held to fill the following positions:

Chairperson:	Marion Dempster
Vice-Chair:	Robert Martel
Acting Secretary:	Robert Martel
Treasurer:	Andy Hopkyns
Past Chair:	Dr. L. Jewell

### Committee Chairs:

Support Services:	John Hutton
Communications:	Wendy Koenig
Human Resources:	Dawne Brown
Education:	Susan Smythe
Fund Raising:	Nick De Silva
Advocacy:	Robert Martel
Advisory:	Dr. L. Warneke
Finance:	Andy Hopkyns

### Members At Large:

Donald Michalkow  
Mary Rafter  
Kate Thompson  
Archie Zariski  
Matt Kuefler  
Guy Milner





# Support Services

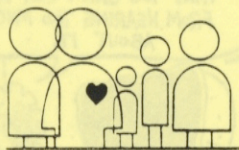
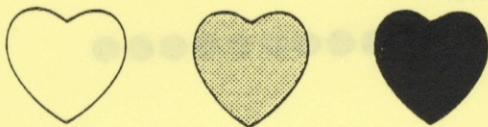
A service of "Hospital Visiting" has been initiated to support persons hospitalized with AIDS/HIV infections. The program was initiated by Brigitte McKenzie at the University of Alberta Hospitals.

Ten volunteers are presently involved in the program. They have provided excellent emotional support to people on four different units at the University Hospital including their families and friends. These efforts have been praised by hospital staff, clients, partners and family members.

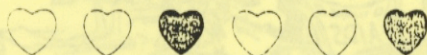
The program has now entered the stage where we hope to expand to still more units at the hospital, and from there to other hospitals.

The results of a recent survey will help us plan how to improve the use of this service by hospital staff, patients and family/friends.

Under our new style of program management all volunteer hospital visitors will play a role in shaping the future of the service. If you would like to get involved in this necessary and important work please contact me, David Fitzgerald, at the Network, 424-4767.



VOLUNTEERS...  
THE HEART OF IT ALL!



## HIV AND ALCOHOL /DRUG USE

Randy Harris from the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC) will give a presentation at the Network on Thursday, May 11, 1989 at 7 p.m. on HIV infection and alcohol/drug use/misuse. Randy will be available between 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. - 9 p.m. for individual counselling and/or questions.

Every month following the May 11th presentation Randy will be at the Network offices on the 2nd (second) Thursday of each month for counselling sessions, to assist people who are HIV+ and having problems with alcohol and/or drugs. These sessions will be held in the privacy of a room set aside for the counselling and will be totally confidential. Randy will be available between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

These sessions are also available for the partner, family or friend of someone who is having problems with alcohol/drug abuse. Again these sessions are private and confidential.

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

May 11, 1989	6 - 7 -	Questions and Counselling
	7 - 8	Presentations
	8 - 9	Questions and Counselling

June 8, 1989	6 - 9	Counselling/ Information Questions
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July 13, 1989	6 - 9	Counselling/ Information Questions
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# Upcoming Events

## FUNDRAISING "89" CONFERENCE

Volunteer Agencies

May 4 - 5, 1989 - Edmonton

Sponsored by Grant MacEwan Community College - INFO: 441-4668

## CANADIAN AIDS SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

May 5- 7, 1989 -Quebec City

Delegates from 29 member AIDS Community Groups

## ALBERTA PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

" Achieving Equity in Health"

May 8 - 11, 1989 - Edmonton Inn

INFO: 427-2644

## VIK GALLERY ART SHOW

Fund Raising Event for the Network

June 8, 1989. 7 - 10 p.m.

10129 - 104 Street

FOR INFO: 424-4767

## MULTICULTURAL CONCERT

June 4, 1989 - 2 p.m.

2nd Floor Theatre -

Student's Union Building

U of A - 89 Ave. & 104 St.

Fund Raising Event for the Network

FOR INFO: 424-4767

## NATIONAL AIDS QUILT TOUR

Calgary - July 4-6, 1989

International Tour of the Memorial Quilt Names Project for person who have died of AIDS.

FOR INFO: 424-4767

## Please Note...

## CLEANING SERVICES REQUIRED

Network Office - up to 10 hours per week, starting June 01. If interested, please contact:

Lil Waters - 424-4767

## SPOTLIGHT

*thank you!*

To the Phoenix Theatre Downtown for sponsoring a funding raising benefit February 13, featuring playwright Kent Stensen, author of " A Warm Wind to China" and for donating a pair of Theatre tickets for our Volunteer Appreciation Night - April 13.

To Graham & Lane Florists for a flower arrangement for our Volunteer Appreciation Night - April 13.

## ROSS ARMSTRONG FUND UPDATE:

March 31, 1989

Previous Balance	\$3,872.27
(January 30/89)	

Donations	\$1,050.00
Memberships	\$2,070.00
Interest	\$ 8.29

Total	\$7,000.56
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Grants	\$ 600.00
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\$6,400.56



**Office Address:**

10704 - 108 Street  
Second Floor  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5H 3A3

**Telephone Number:**

Info Line: 429-AIDS (2437)  
Business Line: 424-4767

**Office Hours:**

Monday - Friday 9 am - 6 pm

**Information Line Hours:**

Monday - Thurs 9 am - 9 pm  
Friday 9 am - 6 pm  
Saturday 11 am - 3 pm

The newsletter is published monthly by the AIDS network of Edmonton Society with the financial assistance from the HEALTH PROMOTION DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH AND WELFARE CANADA AND LEVI STRAUSS CO. (Canada) Inc.

The AIDS Network of Edmonton Society, incorporated in February, 1986, is a non-profit charitable organization (Reg. #0747212-11-25).

Donations to AIDS Research can be made through the AIDS Network Research Fund, administered by the University of Alberta. Donations are matched by provincial funds, and a charitable receipt is available.

The mandate of the AIDS Network is to provide support to those affected by AIDS and to educate and inform with a view to limiting its spread.

**INFORMATION**

An informational and support telephone line operates Monday - Saturday. Pamphlets and a lending resource library are available to agencies and the public.

**EDUCATIONAL**

A speakers bureau provides speakers for educational presentations to concerned groups.

Audiovisual materials and information files are available on loan.

**COUNSELLING**

Confidential one-on-one professional counselling services are available to persons directly or indirectly concerned about AIDS. Referrals to other professional services are made on request.

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

For persons who have tested positive for HIV antibodies; for persons with AIDS; for friends, families and partners of persons with AIDS.

**ADVOCACY**

Assistance will be provided to individuals facing difficulties in receiving services because of their health status.

The AIDS Network works to coordinate the services of supportive public and private agencies in all areas involved by the AIDS crisis.

The services of the AIDS Network of Edmonton Society are provided FREE and on a CONFIDENTIAL basis.



Ross Armstrong Office, 2nd Floor, 10704 - 108 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 3A3  
(403) 424-4767

AIDS NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

A \$25.00 membership contributes to the support of persons with AIDS, entitles you to receive a monthly newsletter, and the right to vote at the AIDS Network annual general meeting.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify the AIDS Network if your address changes.

Please inquire about the reduced membership rates for students or the unemployed.

CANADIAN  
AIDS  
SOCIETY



SOCIÉTÉ  
CANADIENNE  
DU SIDA

The AIDS Network of Edmonton Society is a member of the  
**CANADIAN AIDS SOCIETY/LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DU SIDA**